

HAMMARSKJOLD MISSION

- I. Hammarskjold "moderately optimistic" on re-lease US airmen.
 - A. Got definite impression Chou did not wish close door on case.
 - B. Chou hinted favorable outcome question could be divorced from "political overtones."
 - C. This position consistent with ChiCom statements Peiping could not be "intimidated," but that airmen's cases might be "reviewed."
- II. Hammarskjold told Allison, Hull that Chou did not relate airmen to any other issue; no discussion such questions as UN.

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B. Also contrary Peiping's propaganda, which consistently related case to "grievances"--UN seat, US ChiNat activities, Chinese prisoners of Korean war, Chinese students and financial assets in US.

III. Until clarification from Hammarskjold on this question, cannot tell whether Peiping hopes bargain with US on release of airmen.

A. Many observers have believed Sec'y Gen would bring back Peiping's opening bid for settlement on basis US compromise larger questions.

B. May be such questions will arise in future negotiations over airmen.

C. Meanwhile, Peiping might seek to stimulate negotiations by soon freeing some US nationals not charged with espionage (such as four pilots accused of air "violation").